

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /058 W

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R 281827Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9711

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ASEC, SW, GW

SUBJECT: THE POLITICAL AFTERMATH OF THE STOCKHOLM
TERRORISM

REF: BONN 6766

BEGIN SUMMARY: GERMAN POLITICIANS, INCLUDING THE
OPPOSITION, HAVE BEEN CAREFUL IN THEIR COMMENTS IN THE
BUNDESTAG AND IN THE LAENDER ELECTION CAMPAIGNS ABOUT
THE APRIL 25 TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN
STOCKHOLM. THE OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO ACCUSE THE
GOVERNMENT OF HAVING BEEN SOFT ON TERRORISM IN THE PAST
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AND CALLS FOR TIGHTENING CONTROL OF THE LAWYER-CLIENT

RELATIONSHIP AND LAWS GOVERNING DEMONSTRATIONS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT RECRIMINATIONS WILL EMERGE LATER ABOUT THE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO GIVE IN TO THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS. THE OPPOSITION'S RESTRAINT SEEMS TO BE BASED ON THE FEELING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE STOCKHOLM INCIDENT HAS WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT. END SUMMARY

1. OPPOSITION SPEAKERS IN THE NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIAN CAMPAIGN HAVE REPEATED SOME OF THE CRITICISMS CDU/CSU FRAKTION CHAIRMAN CARSTENS MADE IN THE BUNDESTAG (E.G., PAST SOFTNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST TERRORISM IN THE FRG, AND THE NEED FOR TOUGHER MONITORING OF THE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP TO PREVENT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE ACCUSED TERRORISTS IN JAIL AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS ON THE OUTSIDE). FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, SPEAKING IN ESSEN OVER THE WEEKEND, WAS QUITE RESTRAINED IN HIS CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH HE DEVOTED MOST OF HIS SPEECH TO THE SECURITY QUESTION. MINISTER PRESIDENT HEINZ KUEHN, WHO HEADS THE SPD TICKET IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, HAS PRAISED THE FIRM HANDLING OF THE SITUATION BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND REMARKED THAT STRAUSS WAS EXAGGERATING HIS ROLE ON THE CRISIS STAFF. THE CHANCELLOR, SPEAKING IN COLOGNE FRIDAY EVENING, SPOKE ABOUT SECURITY BUT EMPHASIZED THE CONCRETE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HEINZ KUEHN'S GOVERNMENT (IN INCREASING POLICE PROTECTION, ETC.) RATHER THAN DWELLING UPON THE STOCKHOLM INCIDENT. DEPUTY CDU/CSU FRAKTION CHAIRMAN VON WEIZSAECKER COMMENTED IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE STOCKHOLM ATTACK WERE MARGINAL FIGURES AND NOT THE NEW HARD CORE OF THE BAADER-MEINHOF GANG. THE BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM, HE SAID, WAS IN NO WAY WON AND HE CALLED FOR THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF VIGILANCE.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN FAVORABLE ABOUT THE

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GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO GIVE IN TO THE TERRORIST DEMANDS. HOWEVER, SOME OF THE MORE CDU-ORIENTED NEWS-PAPERS HAVE PICKED UP THE CARSTENS CRITICISM AND HAVE WARNED ABOUT POSSIBLE FUTURE TERRORIST ACTS. A THOUGHTFUL EDITORIAL IN THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG" POINTED OUT THE DANGER OF DEPENDING UPON EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS (I.E., THE CRISIS STAFF) TO TAKE DECISIONS THAT CONSTITUTIONALLY ARE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

3. THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE COME THROUGH THE
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EXPERIENCE WELL.

RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS INDICATE A HARDENING OF THE PUBLIC'S ATTITUDES TOWARDS GIVING IN TO TERRORIST DEMANDS ALTHOUGH EARLIER POLLS INDICATED MAJOR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IN THE LORENZ CASE. THE PUBLIC'S ATTITUDE AS WELL AS THE ENORMITY OF THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS AND THE FORTHCOMING MAY 4 LAENDER ELECTIONS (WHERE THE CDU IS CAMPAIGNING WITH THE SLOGAN, "WE WILL BRING ABOUT SECURITY AGAIN") NO

DOUBT ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECISION TO BE FIRM.
WHILE THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO THE STOCKHOLM INCIDENT IS NO GUARANTEE AGAINST FUTURE TERRORIST ACTS IN OR OUTSIDE OF THE FRG, IT IS CLEAR THAT HAD THE GOVERNMENT GIVEN IN COMPLETELY (EVEN IF THERE HAD BEEN AGREEMENT AMONG ALL PARTIES ON THE CRISIS STAFF), THE RESULT WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY MORE DISRUPTIVE AND COULD HAVE SHAKEN WEST GERMAN SOCIETY. RECRIMINATIONS MAY EMERGE LATER ABOUT THE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT MOST GERMANS FEEL THAT SCHMIDT AND HIS GOVERNMENT SHOWED COURAGE AND LEADERSHIP IN HANDLING THIS CRISIS.

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